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State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

ARSENIC & NITRATE SMALL COMMUNITY GROUNDWATER GRANT PROGRAM

Administered by the State Water Resources Control Board
in consultation with the Department of Health Services

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS GRANT PROGRAM?

To assist small communities with financial hardship in complying with drinking water standards for arsenic and nitrate in groundwater.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Local public agencies and nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive grant funds under this program.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A “SMALL COMMUNITY”?

A small community is a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality, where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less. For this program, information gathered during the 2000 census will be used to determine the population of the community.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A “NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION”?

Nonprofit organizations eligible to receive funding under this program are public benefit corporations formed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

WHY ARE PRIVATE-NOT-FOR-PROFIT WATER COMPANIES NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE GRANTS?

Although the enabling legislation for this program, AB 2534 (Public Resources Code section 30950 (c)), indicates that private not-for-profit water companies may receive grant funds, Proposition 40, the bond measure that authorized this grant program, specified that grant funds would only be allocated to public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Under these circumstances, the voter-approved bond measure takes precedence over the enabling legislation.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A “FINANCIAL HARDSHIP”?

For the purpose of this solicitation, a community will be considered to have a financial hardship if it is classified as a disadvantaged community. The Water Code defines a “disadvantaged community” as a community with an annual median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income (CWC §79505.5 (a)). Based on Census 2000 data, 80% of the statewide annual median household income is \$37,994.

WHAT PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED?

Eligible projects include implementation and construction projects for treatment or replacement of groundwater supplies contaminated with arsenic or nitrate.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE AND HOW MUCH CAN I RECEIVE?

Total Funds Available for Grants: Approximately \$9.5 million

Recommended Maximum Grant - \$2,000,000

Recommended Minimum Grant - \$100,000

WHEN ARE GRANTS AVAILABLE?

Funds are expected to be released in one funding cycle to be initiated in early-July, 2005. Applications for funding are August 19, 2005.

WHEN MUST FUNDS BE COMMITTED?

Funds must be encumbered by December 31, 2006.

WHEN MUST PROJECTS BE COMPLETED?

Projects must be completed by September 30, 2008.

WHAT COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

If your project is approved for funding, all costs incurred after the date of the solicitation notice related to planning, design, and construction of the project are eligible for reimbursement. Costs incurred for administration, and preparing the application are not eligible for reimbursement.

HOW AND WHERE DO I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

Eligible applicants requesting Small Community Groundwater grant funds must submit a complete electronic pre-application using the State Water Resources Control Board's online Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST).

Access to FAAST is available at: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/index.html>. FAAST will accept applications starting July 7, 2005. Applicants who do not have access to the internet or who need assistance completing the pre-application may contact State Water Board staff for assistance.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Please visit the Small Community Groundwater Grant Program Web site at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/scg-gw/index.html>

HOW DO I CONTACT THE SMALL COMMUNITY GROUNDWATER GRANT PROGRAM?

Small Community Groundwater Grant Program staff can be contacted via phone at (916) 341-6969 or email at SCGG@waterboards.ca.gov